

National Estimates of Palustrine and Estuarine Wetland Gains and Losses Between 1992 to 1997

Estimated Palustrine and Estuarine Wetland Gains and Losses in the United States Between 1992 and 1997				
NRCS Region	Gross Losses	Gross Gains	Net Change	
East	-57,600	15,400	-42,200	
Southeast	-216,900	110,500	-106,400	
South Central	-84,100	78,400	-5,700	
Midwest	-74,200	48,400	-25,800	
Northern Plains	-37,000	34,300	-2,700	
West	-36,200	56,200	20,000	
TOTAL ACRES	-506,000	343,200	-162,800	

Nationally, between 1992 and 1997, there was an estimated gross loss of 506,000 acres of palustrine and estuarine wetlands. During that same time, there was also an increase of 343,200 acres of palustrine and estuarine wetlands throughout the United States. These increases were primarily due to government wetland incentive programs.

The result of these fluctuations was a national net loss of 162,800 acres of wetlands. This is an annual rate of 32,600 acres of palustrine and estuarine wetlands lost per year during this 5 year period. When the estimates are examined by NRCS geographic regions, the southeast region had the largest net loss and the west region had the only gain.

NRI data is not collected for any year that the land is in Federal ownership.

